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23 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Establishment of Propaganda Indications of Hostilities Section [REDACTED]

STATSPEC

REFERENCE : Memorandum to DDCI from [REDACTED] dated 8 September 1960, above subject.

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1. I am very negatively inclined toward this suggestion not only because of substantial difficulties in furnishing the bodies in the space required, but also because of my skepticism as to the value to be derived from the effort.

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2. The present propaganda analysis carried on [REDACTED] is comprehensive and professional enough to turn up any really significant indications of hostile actions to be derived from propaganda texts. The marginal additional contribution to be gained by intensive research into past crises would not only have little value but would in my opinion be likely to be seriously misleading because of the lack of adequate basis for comparison. The last even indirect aggression by the Soviets was in June 1950 when the whole tone and content of the output was geared to the Stalin era, a return to which is generally regarded by the Community as highly improbable. The Chinese intervention in Korea in 1950 was the product of highly specialized conditions involving the approach of military forces to their frontiers, and the Indo-Chinese revolution antedated Communist conquest of China. That leaves only the 1955 and 1958 moves against the offshore islands for legitimate indications analyses, and this could either be accomplished as a special project by [REDACTED] or by an outside contractor.

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3. All in all it is my view that if ten bodies are to be added to the Intelligence Community's analytical effort, they can much more profitably be assigned other pressing tasks such as the ones I mentioned at Deputies' this morning.

ROBERT AMORY, JR.
Deputy Director (Intelligence)

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Distribution:

Orig & 1 - DDCI
1 - AD/O
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